

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3183

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2374

GUATEMALA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, BR, MX

SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LA VISIT: THE U.S. -BRAZIL
AGREEMENT

1. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LATIN AMERICAN VISIT IS RECEIVING ABUNDANT ATTENTION IN MEXICO; IN MEDIA, REPORTAGE (INCLUDING FULL-TEXT TREATMENT OF SECRETARY'S CARACAS SPEECH) IS VOLUMINOUS AS IS EDITORIALIZATION AND COMMENT. WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS, COMMENTATORS ARE SKEPTICAL AND FREQUENTLY HOSTILE IN EVALUATING MOTIVATION AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF SECRETARY'S TRIP WHICH PUNDITS WITH AN ANTI-U.S. BIAS SCRUTINIZE FOR "EVIDENCE" OF IMPERIALIST OR NEO-COLONIALIST DESIGNS. AT THIS STAGE IN TRIP, IT SEEMS TO US THAT BY FAR GREATEST IMPACT IN MEXICO WILL RELATE TO BRAZILIAN PORTION OF TRIP AND PARTICULARLY TO NEW USG-GOB AGREEMENT.

2. ON FEB. 21 INFLUENTIAL EXCELSIOR PUBLISHED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW GRANTED BY RULING PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND THE PRESUMPTIVE NEXT PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO, TO THE ITALIAN CORRIERE DELLA SERA. THE CHRONOLOGY IS NOT CLEAR AND JLP'S INTERVIEW
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MAY HAVE PRECEDED ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE U.S.-BRAZILIAN

ACCORD BUT EVENTS COINCIDED AND EXCELSIOR AT LEAST PLAYED JLP'S COMMENTS AS THOUGH THEY REFERRED TO THE AGREEMENT. LOPEZ PORTILLO SAID: "MEXICO IS NOT A BRAZIL NOR DOES IT WANT TO BE. MEXICANS DO NOT WANT TO IMPORT THE BRAZILIAN ECONOMIC MIRACLE, NOR ARE THEY INTERESTED IN AN ACCELERATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BASED UPON THE SACRIFICE AND HUNGER OF MORE THAN FIFTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION." "IN MEXICO WE LIVE A SOCIAL DEMOCRACY WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN POPULAR DEVELOPMENT AND WHEN WE REALIZED THAT OUR PLANNING HAD ALLOWED THE COUNTRY TO GROW (ECONOMICALLY) AT HISTORICALLY VERY SATISFACTORY RATES (FOR THIRTY YEARS MEXICO HAS GROWN AT A RATE OF 6.5 TO 7.0 PERCENT) BUT THAT THIS HAD MEANT A GRADUAL DETERIORATION IN THE RURAL SECTOR AND THE ENRICHMENT AND CONCENTRATION OF INCOME IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. WE TRIED TO CORRECT THE DIRECTION WITH WHAT WE HAVE TERMED BALANCED AND SHARED DEVELOPMENT..." AND AGAIN: "OBVIOUSLY, MEXICO IS NOT BRAZIL AND HAS NO INTEREST IN THE ECONOMIC MIRACLE OF THE FIELD MARSHALS OF BRAZIL BUT (PREFERS TO) MOVE AHEAD ON A ROAD WHICH WILL NOT IGNORE THE SOCIAL REALITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. NEITHER IS MEXICO BRAZIL WHEN IT COMES TO TRANSNATIONALS WHICH USUALLY DO NOT RESPECT THE SOVEREIGNTY OR LAWS OF THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY OPERATE."

3. COMMENT: JLP'S REACTION (FOR IT WILL BE TAKEN AS SUCH REGARDLESS OF CHRONOLOGY) TO BRAZIL AND, INDIRECTLY AT LEAST, TO THE U.S.-BRAZILIAN RELATIONSHIP EVIDENCED BY THE NEW AGREEMENT IS SURELY MORE MODERATE THAN WE CAN EXPECT FROM MANY MEXICANS. NEVERTHELESS, WE THINK IT TYP-IFIES FEELINGS OF RESENTMENT, RIVALRY, AND JEALOUSY ON THE PART OF MANY MEXICANS. HOWEVER CRITICAL MEXICANS MAY BE OF THE U.S. AND HOWEVER MUCH THEY MAY INSIST THAT MEXICO IS A PART OF THE THIRD WORLD, MEXICANS BASICALLY ADHERE TO THE CONVICTION THAT THERE IS INDEED A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES. WHILE THEY MIGHT REACT TO ANY OFFER BY THE USG TO THE FORMALIZATION OF SUCH A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, E.G. AS IN THE AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL, WITH RESERVE THEY NONETHELESS WILL BE ENVIOUS OF BRAZIL IN THIS INSTANCE.

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